

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

May 2011 – Week 4

Air Date: May 22 – May 28 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: CONFEDERATE BORDER BATTLE

MAY 1861 AND TEXAS CONFEDERATES BATTLE FOR THE BORDER.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

MAY 22nd, 1861. CARRIZO SPRINGS. A MONTH AFTER THE START OF THE CIVIL WAR, NOTORIOUS BANDIT JUAN CORTINA CROSSES THE RIO GRANDE – SOME BELIEVE TO HARASS TEXAS FOR THE UNION. CONFEDERATE CAPTAIN SANTOS BENAVIDES RESPONDS WITH A SMALL FORCE, BUT IS SURROUNDED.

ON THE 22ND, BENAVIDES' BROTHER REFUGIO ARRIVES WITH REINFORCEMENTS. IN A RUNNING BATTLE THAT LASTS 40 MINUTES, BENAVIDES CHASES CORTINA AND HIS MEN BACK INTO MEXICO. CORTINA WOULD NEVER INVADE TEXAS AGAIN.

BENAVIDES, HOWEVER, WOULD GO ON TO BECOME THE HIGHEST RANKING TEJANO IN THE CONFEDERACY.

TEXAS CONFEDERATES TOOK ON BORDER BANDITS 150 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Jerry Thompson, "CORTINA, JUAN NEPOMUCENO," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fco73>), accessed May 17, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Jerry Thompson, "BENAVIDES, SANTOS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbe47>), accessed May 17, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"Juan Cortina," *Wikipedia* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Cortina), accessed May 17, 2011.

"Santos Benavides," *Wikipedia* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santos_Benavides), accessed May 17, 2011.

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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